GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:121
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2016
Internet Penetration
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar;Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any annual target to increase the customer base of Internet and broadband users across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the Internet penetration rates during the last three years, separately in rural and urban areas, State-wise;

(d) the action taken/planned to bridge gap urban and rural;

(e) whether the internet/broadband services are not satisfactory across the country particularly in rural and different border areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received by the BSNL during the each of the last three years and the current year and the steps taken by the Government to improve the broadband services in this regard, State and operator-wise and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a)&b) National Telecom Policy-2012 aims to achieve 175 million Broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 in the country. However, there are no annual and state-wise targets for the same.

(c) Telecom License Service Area wise internet subscriber base with rural urban break-up, as available only for the year 2015 and 2016 with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(d)to(f) In order to improve the internet/broadband services and bridge the gap between urban and rural internet/broadband penetration, BharatNet project has been planned by the Government to establish a network infrastructure by connecting all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, for providing broadband connectivity by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

The project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC by March 2017. Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by September, 2018. Futuristic network with ring topology is to be used between districts and blocks and blocks and GPs, targeted to be completed by 2023.

As on 06.11.2016, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid to 62,463 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a total length of 1,43,445 km. Out of these, 12,597 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity. State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 06.11.2016 is enclosed at Annexure-II.

As per "The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators" report dated 5th August 2016 and "Performance on Quality of Service of Wireless Data Services" report for the quarter ending June, 2016 issued by TRAI, most of the telecom service providers are meeting most of the quality of service parameters prescribed by TRAI for broadband/data services.

In respect of BSNL, TRAI has received 15, 53, 84 and 33 complaints regarding poor speed of broadband/ internet during the year 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (1.1.2016 to 30.06.2016) respectively.

Annexure-I

Internet Subscriber Base as on 31st March, 2015 and 31st March, 2016 (in Millions) (as provided by TRAI)
<pre>

Sl. No. Telecom Service Area 31st March 2015 31st March 2016
Rural Urban Total Rural Urban Total
1 Andhra Pradesh 8.15 13.967 22.12 9.13 15.73 24.87
2 Assam 3.25 2.23 5.47 3.21 3.54 6.76
3 Bihar 7.94 8.64 16.59 8.86 10.76 19.63
4 Delhi 1.01 17.49 18.50 0.93 19.66 20.59
5 Gujarat 7.07 12.37 19.44 6.06 15.04 21.10
6 Haryana 3.67 3.47 7.14 2.97 4.59 7.56
7 Himachal Pradesh 1.64 0.94 2.59 1.76 1.28 3.02
8 Jammu & Kashmir 1.79 1.56 3.35 1.83 1.79 3.65
9 Karnataka 6.69 13.41 20.10 5.54 17.09 22.63
10 Kerala 6.14 6.82 12.96 5.57 9.02 14.60
11 Kolkata 0.42 7.59 8.01 0.55 8.72 9.26
12 Madhya Pradesh 6.51 10.12 16.63 6.24 14.17 20.41
13 Maharashtra 9.12 16.40 25.53 9.76 19.72 29.47
14 Mumbai 0.25 14.25 14.50 0.28 15.37 15.65
15 North East 1.92 1.65 3.57 1.97 2.10 4.06
16 Orissa 3.52 3.77 7.30 3.37 4.93 8.29
17 Punjab 5.23 7.65 12.88 4.71 8.75 13.46
18 Rajasthan 7.31 8.47 15.79 7.01 10.25 17.24
19 Tamil Nadu 6.52 17.62 24.14 6.86 21.16 28.01
20 UP (East) 10.66 9.73 20.38 11.21 11.27 22.47
21 UP (west) 6.06 8.14 14.19 6.48 10.04 16.54
22 West Bengal 6.88 4.31 11.19 7.64 5.75 13.38
Total 111.76 190.60 302.35 111.94 230.71 342.65
</pre>

Annexure-II

Statewise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 06.11.2016
<pre>
S.No. States/ UTs No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I Pipe laid (kms.) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms) No. of GPs where OFC laid Connectivity provided (GPs)
1 Assam 1013 2252 2088 770 243
2 Bihar 5202 8786 7615 2891 333
3 Chhattisgarh 2110 5392 5147 1724 943
4. Haryana 6090 6257 6244 3871 296
5. Jammu & Kashmir 624 253 240 118 0
6. Karnataka 5599 10383 10764 5256 4826
7. Kerala 977 720 826 1129 1129
8. Madhya Pradesh 10516 23760 21458 7141 629
9. Maharashtra 12055 17623 15471 6999 842
10. Punjab 6128 6471 6213 4290 70
11. Rajasthan 6967 15980 15005 4834 810
12. Uttar Pradesh 22514 35083 26645 12406 920
13. Uttarakhand 1767 2141 1857 1006 216
14. West Bengal 2713 2641 2534 920 107
15. Andaman & Nicobar 69 0 0 0 0
16. Chandigarh 12 18 19 12 12
17. Arunachal Pradesh 256 693 117 22 0
18. Nagaland 743 2171 818 194 0
19. Manipur 24 71 73 24 26
20. Mizoram 163 448 123 5 0
21. Tripura 1021 1560 1368 641 79
22. Meghalaya 651 1133 277 80 0
23. Gujarat 5771 7969 6308 2859 320
24. Puducherry 98 82 92 98 101
25. Andhra Pradesh 0 1913 21 0 0
26. Telangana 2097 4266 4043 1818 127
27. Odisha 3388 5801 4962 2091 335
28. Jharkhand 1428 3046 2920 1202 233
29. Himachal Pradesh 283 288 196 62 0
30. Goa* - - - - -
Grand Total 1,00,289 1,67,202 1,43,445 62,463 12,597
</pre>
*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

****